

ABSTRACT

An improved stopping mechanism is provided for a conveyor that accepts one or more streams of product input and converts the one or more streams to a format that is suitable for automatic loading to a subsequent machine, wherein a stack of slices must be temporarily stopped on the conveyor while moving. The stopping mechanism includes a lower stop having a lower stack-engaging portion and a lift portion, the lift portion selectively actuatable to elevate the lower stack-engaging portion to engage a bottom surface of the stack and to lift the stack above the conveying surface. The stopping mechanism further includes an upper stop having an upper stack-engaging portion and a lowering portion, the lowering portion selectively actuatable to lower the upper stack-engaging portion to engage an upper surface of the stack.

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